

JOHN WESLEY POWELL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Christina Schulz
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Patricia Carlson
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JWP Audubon Society is a Chapter
of National Audubon Society, Inc.

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- Development**
Vacant
- Editor**
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- Field Trips**
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- Publicity**
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- Special Projects**
Anandhi Ramalingam

On The Wing

I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.

John Muir



Apr 29 Sat	SPRING BIRD WALK: Ewing Park, 8:00am. Leaders Bode and David Thompson. Park/meet at Ethell Parkway lot, Ewing Park
May 7 Sun	SPRING BIRD WALK: Hidden Creek, Normal, 2:00pm. Leader Lenore Sobota. Park/meet on Sycamore Street, Normal
May 13 Sat	SPRING BIRD WALK: Ewing Park, 8:00am. Leaders Given Harper and Michael Retter. Park/meet at Ethell Parkway lot, Ewing Park
May 14 Sun	SPRING BIRD WALK: Fraker Farm, 8:30am. Directions on website Leader Matt Fraker
May 20 Sat	SPRING BIRD WALK: Ewing Park, 8:00am. Park/meet at Ethell Parkway lot, Ewing Park
May 21 Sun	ANNUAL GATHERING: 1:00-3:00pm Illinois Art Station, Normal. Bird walk, refreshments, art activities, installation of 2023-24 Board of Directors. Parking lot on Linden just south of Vernon. (see page 1)
May 27 Sat	SPRING BIRD WALK: Merwin Preserve, Parklands, 8:00am. Park/meet at North Gate. Dr. Pirmin Nietlisbach
May 28/Sun	SPRING BIRD WALK: Ewing Park. 8:00 a.m. Leader Ben Guo

John Wesley Powell Audubon events are in bold print

JWP Audubon board meetings are held from September to May, with the exception of December. There are many volunteer opportunities and members are always welcome and encouraged to join in a variety of committees – whatever amount of time you can give. To find out how to become more involved in your chapter contact any of the officers listed at the left of this page at jwpaudubon1@gmail.com



PrairieWind



A Chapter of National Audubon
An Illinois Audubon Affiliate

Volume 47, Issue 3

Apr-May 2023

John Wesley Powell Audubon

You are invited to the
JWP Annual Gathering

Sunday, May 21, 2023
1:00 to 3:00 pm

The Illinois Art Station
101 E. Vernon Avenue
Normal, Illinois

Parking is at 607 S. Linden Street

1:00 pm Bird walk leaves from Art Station
2:00 pm Refreshments, Illinois Art Station
Chapter Business

The program will include:

- An update on local environmental successes
- The year's review and Treasurer's Report
- Introduction to the 2023-24 Board of Directors

The walk will showcase the new art center and the rich habitat surrounding it that is part of the Illinois Art Station facility. We look forward to sharing this time together. Not required but please help us better plan with a RSVP to our email below.



There will be art projects available throughout the gathering for attendees of all ages! Take the opportunity to learn watercolor or make bird suet pinecones for your home habitat.

OVERFLOW Parking available at 611 Vernon at Connie Link Amphitheatre. Handicap parking only is available at the Vernon Entrance.



www.jwpaudubon.com

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Facebook: JWP Audubon



Come join the chorus! Blackburnian, Blue-winged, Yellow-throated warblers

SPRING MIGRATION BIRD WALKS

Bill Davison, Field Trips

Led by some of JWP's finest, weekend bird walks are held during peak migration at our local bird oases, including Ewing Park, 1001 Ethell Parkway, Bloomington and Hidden Creek, 100 W. Sycamore, Normal.

- Saturday, April 29 - 8:00 a.m. Ewing Park, Bode and David Thompson**
- Sunday, May 7 - 2:00 p.m. Hidden Creek, Lenore Sobota/Bill Davison**
- Saturday, May 13 - 8:00 a.m. Ewing Park, Given Harper/Michael Retter**
- Sunday, May 14 - 8:30 a.m. Fraker Farm (directions on website) Matt Fraker**
- Saturday, May 20 - 8:00 a.m. Ewing Park, Leader TBD**
- Saturday, May 27 - 8:00 a.m. Merwin Preserve, Parklands, North Gate Dr. Pirmin Nietlisbach (directions on website)**
- Sunday, May 28 - 8:00 a.m. Ewing Park, Ben Guo**

Within Ewing, Hedge Apple Woods was designated an Important Bird Area for migration in 2016. Warblers, thrushes, sparrows, finches, raptors, etc., all are seen at these locations. Bird walks are appropriate for all ages and all skill levels. We even have 3 pairs of loaner binoculars! If you have questions about accessibility, please email us at jwpaudubon1@gmail.com.

American White Pelican

Photo by JWP Member Jeff Jackson



Patricia Carlson, Secretary/Editor

Letter from the Editor

Dear JWP Members,

We all could not stay away from the migrating White Pelicans this past month observed locally, mainly on the lakes of Evergreen and Bloomington. They surely were the most photographed bird of the month. With a wingspan of 96.1-114.2 in (244-290 cm) it is one of the largest North American birds.

The American White Pelican is majestic in the air, soaring with incredible steadiness on broad, white-and-black wings. Their large heads and huge, heavy bills give them a prehistoric look. On the water they dip their pouched bills to scoop up fish, or tip-up like an oversized dabbling duck. Sometimes, groups of pelicans work together herding fish into the shallows for easy feeding and will be comically observed in groups with all their heads down at once.

We have many excellent photographers in JWP but this photo, by Jeff Jackson, caught my eye. It captures the massive bill and showcases the breeding horn that forms this time of year on the bill's top.

We look forward to hosting all our members at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 21. Hope to see you there.

Patricia Carlson



JWP Steering Committee:

- Bill Davison**
- Mercy Davison**
- Christina Schulz**

The Year in Review by Steering Committee: Bill Davison, Mercy Davison, and Christina Schulz

In spring 2022, JWP Audubon created a new Strategic Plan to guide the board in the coming years. The main categories within the plan include 1) restoring and creating bird habitat, 2) coordinating high-impact, high-visibility initiatives and events, 3) increasing the numbers and the diversity of our membership, 4) strengthening the JWP board, 5) enhancing our fundraising for high-priority projects, and 6) improving our advocacy efforts through strategic partnerships. Many goals have been met in the subsequent months:

Goal 1: Bird habitat

- First season for 3 new purple martin houses at Lake Bloomington, where we have a great group of volunteer landlords. We anticipate putting up several new and replacement purple martin houses in 2023. Please let us know if you are interested in being a landlord!
- Over 100 hours of volunteer service at Ewing Park and at the Audubon Garden removing invasives and caring for native plants. JWP provided funds for the addition of more native seeds at Ewing.

Goal 2: Initiatives and events

- More than 650 attendees at JWP events, and more than 300 hours of volunteer service in 2022
- 16 bird walks at multiple locations, some selected to be accessible to those with mobility restrictions
- 3 educational presentations held at Illinois Wesleyan University
- Coordination of the annual Spring Bird Count and Christmas Bird Count

Goal 3: Membership and diversity

- Facebook engagement reaching more than 900 members
- Loaner binoculars offered at all bird walks and ADA options highlighted to make our walks more inclusive for underrepresented populations

Goal 4: Board

- Work toward increased digital outreach, including through the newsletter, website, and Facebook
- Continued on-boarding of more recent board members

Goal 5: Fundraising

- Key player in obtaining a \$75,000 grant for habitat restoration adjacent to the Connie Link Amphitheatre on the Constitution Trail
- Several generous individual donations toward habitat restoration

Goal 6: Advocacy and partnerships

- Launch of a "fluddle" mapping project with Dr. RJ Rowley, professor of Geography, Geology and the Environment at Illinois State University. The project mapped important, ephemeral wetlands across McLean County to provide a basis for future conservation. The project won accolades for the academic team and may be used as a model for other groups focused on conservation.
- Initiation of a documentary film about wetlands restoration in Central Illinois with filmmaker Bob Dolgan, creator of the "Monty and Rose" film and other environmental documentaries
- Strengthening of relationships with local government partners, particularly Parks and Recreation Departments, to better ensure bird-friendliness in public land management